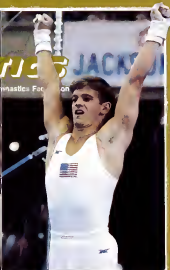
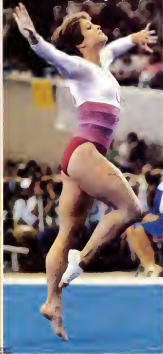


# USA GYMNASTICS

Official Magazine of the United States Gymnastics Federation

July/August 1984



1984 Olympic  
Trials Issue



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*The Olympic Trials, where many athletes realize a dream come true, a berth on the Olympic Team, were held recently in Jacksonville, FL and Atlantic City, NJ. With much pageantry and great gymnastics, the United States assembled its strongest teams ever.*

On the cover The scenes of the Trials  
USGF photos © 1984 Dave Black



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**Figure 1**

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Ogishima (Sagami) Island dip.		
Ogishima (Sagami) Tono dip.		
Ogishima (Sagami) Plateau above		
POM (Pompeii) Ogishima (Sagami) Island		
R&T (Pom)		
"Long (Sagami)" Pompeii (Sagami)		
R&T (Sagami) Plateau (Pom)		
R&T (Sagami) Plateau (Pom)		

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# An Olympian: To Be Or Not To Be

**T**his summer will be one of discussion, debate, controversy and opinion. We will look back on the past four years and decide what we did right and what we did wrong. Hopefully we will evaluate this period accurately and make even better decisions for our future.

One topic of great discussion is our team selection process. Everyone has their own opinion. Coaches, judges, athletes and even parents cast judgement on the selection process. The issue that is the basis of the debate is a simple one: Can you select the very best team fairly? Another point is what is more important: being perfectly fit or making sure that the best team is represented on the floor? It is perhaps impossible to satisfy both questions.

In the recent Olympic Campaign, Trials our men's and women's teams used two very different selection procedures. The men did not allow any petitions onto the team. The top six men are the Olympic Team. The women could allow petitions.

It is interesting to think of the potential consequences. Mitch Gaylord had a fall in the last event of the Trials. If Mitch had not been able to finish his exercise, he would not have made the Olympic Team! The men's procedures would not allow it. Secondly, one of the world's best pole vaulters failed to make the USA team due to a "bad day" at the Track and Field Olympic Trials. Was that fair? Perhaps a better question is: was that best for the USA Team?

In 1972 Kathy Hughes was placed on the Olympic Team when she was unable to finish her last event in the Trials due to an injury. She was our best gymnast. Did she deserve a place on the Team? In 1976 Peter Hermann was actually our men's team alternate; the coach decided that Peter deserved to work and he replaced another athlete and gave Peter a place on the team. Peter became our first Olympic medal winner in 40 years! Was this fair? It obviously was a good decision!

In 1979 we selected our women's team a number of months before the World Championships. The girls were out of shape at the World Championships; we had five falls on beam and we counted about 17 missed exercises. In 1981 we first used the delayed selection procedure. We used it again in 1984. Our performances were much better and we had no falls on beam and hardly any missed exercises.

There are many concerns that select the final six competitors just hours before the actual competition. The idea is to pick those athletes that are at their very peak of performance. Perhaps it is not fair but it is effective.

The bottom line to the selection procedure is the coach's performance. If the team does well the procedure is accepted. If the team does poorly, the selection procedure is believed to be the cause of the problem. Another point is valid. We could have a Trials and select the top six to compete. The Trials could be held just a week before the competition in question. This perhaps is a bad idea; the team, that an athlete would get out of shape or lose the competitive edge. The opposite alternative is to not have a Trials competition at all. Maybe we could take the top 15 athletes and select an impartial group of coaches, judges and officials who would select the six members from the day before the event. It would be interesting if the athletes selected in these two very different ways would be the same.

Our responsibility is a difficult one; to select our very best team fairly. No matter how fair it appears on paper.

Circumstances always develop that put the process to the test. We sometimes try to build in preventives. We want to protect our top athletes however the nature of athletic competition is surprise. We cannot create procedures for every situation, but then again, should we?

What if Scott Hamilton fell in the Olympics. Trush did not make the team? What about Greg Louganis. Robert Moses or Mary Decker? Then again, what about the athletes that defeat these top contenders in the Trials. By trying to protect our potential medal winners are we discouraging the spirit of competition?

The purpose of this article is to show that there are truly two sides to this question. Obviously, as an athlete who finished sixth, the feelings will be different from those of the athlete who finished seventh.

There are no easy solutions. However, some things can help. One is to make sure everyone knows well in advance exactly how the selection procedure works. Also, the selection procedure should be based on the main objective—selecting the very best team. No matter what final procedure is selected, it must be based on performance. No one can live on that past records. Sports change too rapidly in addition we never want to discourage the spirit of competition. The selection procedure cannot be an academic one. The encouragement should be one that forces the coach and athletes to spend time in the gym rather than spending time deciphering rules. For in the end the most important thing is the athlete's performance.

Mike Jacki

Executive Director

## Four Continents Championships in RSG

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# A TOUCH OF BRASS

By Sue Stuller  
Eugene, Oregon

**A** flayed trampolinist, through the coach. It was the mid-1970s, trampolines was still an NCAA event and the coach was returning from a meet in which his four trampolinists bounced off the tramp like popcorn out of a pan with no lid.

Monday, the coach got an idea. Pushing the trampoline up against the railing of the balcony, "I want four routines from each of you," he growled at the four, who leaned themselves looking over the railing at the floor more than 20 feet below.

Daily stepped, they each hit four solid routines. "Those were the safest routines you ever saw in your life," laughed Bill Meade.

Sometimes it takes a little brass to be a coach, to walk over to a gymnast who has just crashed in a big meet, up him with your foot and say, "Nice up, you're making me look bad." And it takes a great human being to get away with that kind of thing and still be respected by his gymnasts and competitors.

For 15 years, Bill Meade has been brassy enough to stay out of the competitive gymnastics and trampoline enough to be the trunk of a gymnastics tree that spreads across the entire country.

When Meade arrived at Southern Illinois in the fall of 1966 after coaching seven years at the University of North Carolina, he found a gym full of walk-ons who had never competed. The most experienced athlete was a 194 pound trampolinist/diver/pole vaulter named Roger Council. "That makes one of the heaviest State branch. The least experienced was a skinny cat from."

"I'd like to go out for the team," he told the coach.

"Well, what can you do?" Meade asked.

"Oh, I'm pretty good on trampoline. I could do almost everything on it in high school, except there's one thing I won't do."

"What's that?"

"The back flip."

Right.

But Meade persisted, strutting into the gym in a long brown overcoat that gave his stocky form a bear-like appearance which only increased when he paused to scratch his back against the high bar cables. Meade pushed the team, demanding routines, tolerating little and tucking his in cigarette behind his ear like a pencil when he needed both hands for spotting. He also encouraged the skinny trampolinist.

"We were just getting started, so I couldn't get in much with the top kids," recalls Meade. "I had to go after the six through 10 kids and take it from there. Southern Illinois was a nice school. It was a good opportunity to get into some good competition. At that time, it was a little easier to get in academically than some other schools, so I got some kids that couldn't get into other colleges."

Meade's first blue chip recruit was Fred Chikobsky, already a quality gymnast by the time he chose to go to SIU. "Bill likes to win, he's very dedicated and spends a lot of time in the gym helping you be the best you can be. I just thought that it would be an ideal situation for me."



Standing unobscured against them, the Coach has been a major influence on gymnastics in America. (CNS photo © Neil Alexander)

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**Meade scheduled SIU's first meet against the most powerful team in the country, the University of Illinois with Don Torry and Able Grossfeld.**

---

"Let for it, children, it's."

Not being a very timid fellow, Meade scheduled SIU's first meet against the most powerful team in the country, the University of Illinois with Don Torry and Able Grossfeld. "I just figured that the only way we were going to get any better was to meet somebody better," explains Meade. "And we did."

And they got stomped. But yes indeed, Bill Baleser did a back flip in the meet. There's the University of Oregon branch.

The Salado lost the next seven meets before finally winning their last meet of the season. Meade worked through the summer and fall pulling kids out of P.E. classes, recruiting in the talent-rich Chicago area and selling coffee from rusty GI canteen to unsuspecting football fans to finance a trip to the Florida Christmas Clinic.



But not the easiest perhaps. "I always believed in an automatic democracy," laughs Menke. "We didn't take too many votes on how we were going to do things."

California: "I can remember one Sunday morning practice he'd look the door on you if you weren't there on time. He'd take real tickets away from people so they couldn't eat. I mean that didn't happen all the time, but you learned that he was there on time, so you better be there on time too."

That was the Western Michigan branch by the way.

With Oklahoma, a 1960 Olympian, Bruno Klaus (East Broadening branch) and a double back tumbler from California, named Rusty Mitchell (New Mexico branch). Menke built a team that climbed higher on an entire decade in the same way Gene Westmore's Penn State team dominated the forties.

Menke and transmute Bill Frey came from that Penn State tradition. "We won the national AAU championships in 1945," says Menke. "And then when we got back from the service, we won the national collegiate championships in 1947."

"We were doing conservative handgrip frames and double full twists on two inches of canvas covered horse hair mats. The kind of mats that at best keep you from bleeding if you crash."

From 1962 through 1967, SU didn't lose a recruit, a true Hatch Donak refers to as the "golden era."

"Here the reason I'm still coaching," says Donak, a comment his Salata compatriot echoed. "It's strict discipline brought us together. We had a lot of guys in the team who had sold farms and guys who were pretty conservative. We all had the same rules, but he treated us individually. We got the feeling that this was lot of fun, something we could take pride in. It was a constructive thing for us when we really had nothing else in our lives but gymnastics."

**Undaunted and still sitting, Morava straightened his toes and raised his arms as if he'd just nailed the vault cold. Even the judges laughed.**

"Well, that's it," says Menke. "You want to have fun on the gym. Find the kids that want to be good and go from there. You just have to show them that you really care about what they are doing and that they are getting better and have a good atmosphere where they can see that they are progressing."

The pressure was still on to win, but a little more subtle than holding real tickets. Ford Donak was almost 2000 hours high school coaches taught by Menke, explains. "There were a lot of good gymnasts. Eventually had to work just to survive. He'd just scratch his chin and say, I wonder who'll take to Tucson this week."

With Tom Lushien, the winning continued into the seventies. No more sellings office at football games. Money was easier to come by. The SU athletic department budgeted roughly \$15,000 for Menke's 1972 season. He spent \$35,000 and won the NCAA championships. The athletic department paid the \$48,000.

With 300 people at each event the 1974 Midwest Open was an easy place for a gymnast to get lost in a crowd of adults that cost group of athletes stood out. Their t-shirts said nothing just a transferred photo of a fellow with a round face, receding hairline and a grin on his face like he'd just smoked his athletic department for a lot of money. A whole room full of shirts with that boy right up front.

At the end of the vaulting runway stood Gary Morava, the brightest gymnastics star in the country. Seated in a folding chair directly at the end of the vaulting landing mats was the fellow with the face on Morava's shirt.

Morava ran, launch into his vault, a handgrip front which he opened early and landed it flat on his feet not five feet in front of the guy with the round face.

Undaunted and still sitting, Morava straightened his legs pointed his toes and raised his arms as if he'd just nailed the vault cold. Even the judges laughed.

Also undaunted the guy in the chair didn't even bother to move his arms to let himself his index finger signalling Morava to take another vault.

Morava smelt the next one.

Typically, Gary Morava died in a gym accident the following year and southern Illinois suffered. "We had been on top for a long time," says Menke. "Then I lost Gary and that. It got me in kind of a demopell and we weren't in the top teams."

Despite the demopell SU kept turning out good individual gymnasts, Jim Ivreck, Glen Tidwell, Danny Moore, Rick Adams and at most recently, Brian Babcock. Then last year the Salatas were back in the top 10.

It's difficult to decide if Bill Menke is better at developing gymnasts or coaches. Five former Salatas have coached teams in the top 10 in the NCAA. Coached by Foster Donak, Mitchell and Chuck Elich (Northern Illinois branch).

"He's treated me like an equal as a coach right from the start," says Donak. "It's just fun when we compete against him."

Oh yeah, Hatch is the Missouri Baptist branch. And just what does Brian Babcock want to do with his future?

"I want to be a college coach."

It was not a very big plane. Barely big enough to hold the gymnastics team flying home from a meet. Up front sat the pilot and the coach who had done a fair bit of flying himself and just persuaded the pilot to let him land the plane. Just as the plane was about to touch down on the runway, a gust of wind blew the plane sideways over the grass not the concrete.

The gymnasts turned white as the plane bounced and rolled to a stop in the grass. No one said a word. But up front they could hear their coach, chuckling comfortably.

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GYMNASTS JOURNEY TO LA '84

Bart Conner



# USA To Field Strongest Olympic Squads Ever

By Ward Black

"...PRESSURE..."

"You have to learn to pace yourself. Pressure. You're just like everybody else. Pressure. So, it's only real to you so far. So good, but you will come to a place, where the only thing you feel are locked gates in your face and you'll have to deal with. Pressure. Nervousness in looks but inside where we're all exposed to Pressure. Pressure"

—Lilley Judd (The Motion Picture)

**I**f you watched these 1994 Olympic Team Trials on ABC/TV over the weekend of June 1-3, the faces of both Kathy Johnson and Bart Conner in particular defined what kind of mood a "trial" can be. The Olympics and World Championships are indeed the most prestigious of competitive events, but they do not contain the pressure of the Trials themselves. To make the Team becomes most crucial than the major event itself. Most athletes agree: There is no mood like a Trials. Even for veteran performers, as Johnson and Conner, the careers captured emotions depicted in part in Lilley Judd's lyrics about life.

Ironically, Jacksonville, Florida has hosted the Olympic Trials for gymnastics in the last two "boycotted" Olympic years of 1980 and 1984. However, the in-house environment for each meet was as different as night and day. By all accounts, the pressure at the 1994 Trials was intense—and rightfully so!

The first four trials with medals in Olympic Trials. Above are members (from the left) Chris Engel, Kim Zmeskal, Scott Johnson, Bart Conner, and Lilley Judd. The largest trial captured, and the first trial (1994) from the 1994 team trial.

In 1980, all the Olympic athletes received was a placebo of politeness on the lawn of the White House by President Jimmy Carter but to make the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team in 1984 means nothing short of earning an Olympic medal for Team Competition! In the midst of these gymnastics Olympic Trials, waiting in that pot at the end are Olympic medals of gold, silver and bronze. Now, that's pressure.

What follows is an analysis of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Men and Women, with coverage of the scoring and pressures of the competition at the Jackson Trials.

**T**he Men's Competition. Fortunately, the analysis of the Men's Olympic Trials was made quite easy... the best top six men finished in the top six slots, and in short, this race is the most competitive, most experienced team the U.S. has ever fielded. In addition, the National Team depth is awesome compared to a decade ago in the 1974 World Championships—Yugoslavia, Bulgaria—where the U.S. men placed eighth! The Junior National Age-Group Program is contributing this international competitiveness producing quality gymnasts largely looking toward Seoul South Korea in 1988. Everyone connected with the U.S. Men's Program—beginning gymnasts, coaches, judges, administrators, parents and all those developing the National Team should take pride in this Olympic Team and the International Program.

How can you measure international experience? This Olympic Team can post accolades five total nine Olympic Teams, 16 World Championship Teams, four World University Games Teams, in excess of 16 Teams—Dual International Meets, not to mention three bronze medals and one gold medals in Team and parallel bars from the 1979 Fort Worth World Championships and 35 years of experience on the Men's National Team. The team of Peter Vidmar, Nick Gayford, Tim Duggan, James Hartung, Scott Johnson and Bart Conner are wealthily indeed.

In the last five years Vidmar has won three out of four USA Team Trials and once again in Jacksonville, Vidmar demonstrated why he has won more important competitions than any other—a strong, consistent and well balanced set of compulsory and optional routines. He won both compulsory and optional in Florida, scoring 117.890, 5 ahead of Duggan who aggressively established second place in the Trials. Gayford with a perfect 10.0 on parallel bars and a full on high bar averaged into third place in the Trials. Hartung re-established his trademark of strength and consistency matching his Championships of the USA score of 117.05 for a solid fourth position. Scoring a 98.7 in the optional session Johnson edged out Conner for the fifth spot in the Trials competition. (Since the scores were weighted with the Championships of the USA, held earlier this year in Evanston, Illinois, the final ranking judged Gayford and Duggan—and Conner and Johnson. See the individual scores on page 17 for complete scores breakdown.)

The competition on the Los Angeles podium amongst Japan, China and USA, though missing the Russians, will be superb. With Lu Ying, Roy Gushiken and Vidmar, each leading his team into a tight team competition. This USA boasts its finest team to date... experience, depth, strongly improved compulsories and optional with difficulty, originality and consistency. A "home" Olympics is perhaps more advantageous to this U.S. Olympic squad than to any other. The advantage for UCLA's Vidmar, Gayford and Duggan—the one, two, three Trials finishers—no compete at home in their college arena, Pauley Pavilion cannot be calculated and compared into the final USA team score average... but in no way can it hurt.

The scoring procedures though complicated for the many sports fans casual observers and the media, was devised to ensure the Olympic Team was selected in a fair and consistent manner while allowing for injuries and serious gymnastships in the example cases of the Phil Cufay, Tom Beach and Conner positions... but most importantly, the top six finished top six where all was said, done, calculated and counted.



*The Digger performs his pommel bar routine during the 1984 Olympic Trials and becomes the first American to win the UCLA student placed medal (1982 photo by USAA Steve Hickey)*

**W**omen's Competition. This issue of the magazine will go to press in mid-June, and this analysis of the Olympic Trial results is due in Indianapolis by late June. I mention this only because it remains a strong possibility that the final Olympic Team gymnasts could be radically different from those resulting the Trials in Jacksonville.

Simply, the Trials are not really over yet. After the U.S. Classic and American Classic, the Championships of the USA and the Olympic Trials, only four of seven gymnasts are guaranteed bids on the U.S. Olympic Team. They are Mary Lou Retton, Julianne McNamara, Michelle Dussette and Pam Beckett. Three women after three qualification competitions finished the Trials in first through fourth positions. The fifth and sixth, and alternate selections for the team remain to be finalized although it appears—depending upon petition requests—that the four gymnasts vying for those spots were determined in the same previously mentioned events. Those gymnasts are Lucy Walker, Tracee Talavera, Marie Roethlisberger and Kathy Johnson.

Only after an Olympic Training Camp and a dual meet with Canada on July 15th will the Olympic Team be finalized. A selection committee appointed by the USGFA Women's International Program Committee of Olympic Coaches Don Peters, Joe Krenator and Debra Dant will weigh and evaluate the results from the Trials, Training Camp and USA vs. Canada to determine who will and will not compete in Los Angeles.

The long, arduous and sometimes collected process may be only half the story. The "final" Olympic Trials were held the first of June, but now, going into July, many questions are still unanswered. Injury? Petition? Rating? Training Camp? and USA vs. Canada remains? Fortunately, these questions are made to the national media. For them, as well as for many in the gymnastics community, they keep asking Retton's experienced coach Bela Karolyi, "How many medals?" Karolyi's answer, "Who knows?", is told to USA Today.

This enthusiastic optimism for gold medal performances in Los Angeles gained momentum again at Trials. For four years, McNamee has ranked as one of the world's finest performers on the uneven bars; she was the bronze medalist at the 1981 Moscow World Championships, finishing behind GDR's Maxi Gnauck and PRC's Mo Yansheng. Can McNamee win the gold at home in Los Angeles? "Who knows?" Bela Karolyi said in June's issue of the Olympian: "1984 is Retton's Olympics like 1976 was Nadie's."

Retton has been pervasive in the U.S. Women's Program, but these Trials clearly demonstrated progress and improvement. One statistic alone is striking. On bars, in both compulsory and optional of 47 countries, there was only one fall. In the 1981 World Championships, the U.S. was the highest scoring team team. Nobody, not the Russians, East Germans, Rumanians or Chinese were better.

And what about experience and depth? Of the eight women making up the eight members of the Olympic Squad, their total years of national and international experience, or number of World Championships or Olympic Teams do not match their male counterparts, however, neither does their international competition. Looking closer, their hands and experience number greater than any women's team yet. Between the eight members, there is 25 years of national team experience, nine World Championships Teams, six Olympic Teams and in excess of 30 international dual meet competition teams.

Match together a solid team on balance beam, the distinct advantages of a "home" Olympics, a couple of internationally elite gymnasts as McNamee and Retton, the experience of a veteran performer like Johnson, and add improved team depth and consistency...well, what you may have is a close match between the USA, China and Rumania with a couple of weeks to determine who wins the Olympic Team gold.

In Trials competition, Retton and McNamee methodically with high voltage and elegance placed first and second, confirming their finish from Championships of the USA. Dussone, Bileck and Winer came to Jacksonville, not for the sunshine, but to secure placement on the 1984 Team Trials experience paid off as Dussone and Bileck edged into the third and fourth secured positions. Tishman, a seasoned Trials competitor, met the pressure challenge, improved her score 8 from Championships and moved into sixth position with Rothberger also bettering her Championships score to take the seventh spot.

Prior to this meet, is it with Team Trials, it is assumed that the intense competition will go down to the last selected spot and the meet is not over until all the scores are in. No one could or would have predicted how true to fashion this Trials would be.

After a devastating break on her first event in compulsory, a missed handstand on uneven bars resulting in a 7.65, Johnson undertook the seemingly impossible task of regaining the valuable tenth, which the Florida native did with raw courage and gut determination. During the years of gymnastics experience added her again. After the compulsory round, Dussone moved into sixth position. During the six and round of optional competition—making—Dussone was injured during the landing of a full twisting Tuschard vault and was forced to drop out of the event. This situation allowed Johnson to move into the eighth spot and placed Dussone in an unofficial ninth spot (using 100 percent of her Championships of the USA score) pending the petition outcome.



*Now there is only one in a long line of greats and through her, as through a comet, medals lie dead for the 1984 Olympic gymnastics team. She's finished the Trials in Jacksonville with 10.00 points. Beate Petersen became world champion in 1981. (Steve Black.)*

**O**lympic Preview: Realistically speaking in gymnastics, any team top's considerations are not in the competition. It takes the meet's cover all quality and competition level, more so in the summer's case for the women than the men. For the U.S. though, the boycott ensures a bonanza of medal possibilities. Looking at the results from the 1983 World Championships, the top 10 teams, top 15 all-around and event finalists, for the men, 90 percent will participate and for the women, 95 percent of those competitors will participate in Los Angeles. Even more important will be how it will effect the judging. There are no doubts that these should be the most fairly and accurately judged Olympics in recent history. The champions and medal winners should truly be deserving....

'The Home Court Advantage (THCA)' in analyzing past results, the effects of the boycott, team upmovements strengths and weaknesses, my head leads me to one set of answers while everyone I talk to, says THCA is, indeed, the decisive variable. And, after being in Moscow for the 1981 World Championships and seeing that THCA did for the Russians especially Alexander Dumin (his own song), I agree.

For the women, the three teams are the USA, Rumania and China. I rank it as the favorite being Rumania with a dual meet between the USA and China. China probably stronger in compulsory but the USA has THCA. Then again, as Bela Karolyi has stated, "Who knows?" A couple of beam falls by Rumania, an injury here or there, a sparkling USA team and, indeed, "Who knows?"

For the men, the three teams include the USA, Japan and China. Here again the reigning World Champion Chinese are

(continued on page 22)



**MEN'S 1984 USGF GYMNASIOLIC OLYMPIC TRIALS**  
 Jacksonville, FL 04-05-1984  
**INDIVIDUAL SCORES**

## 1 Peter Vidler UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.75	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	59.00
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	18.25	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	113.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 2 Mitch Gaylord UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.12	9.50	9.50	9.12	9.50	9.00	53.40
TOTAL	18.62	19.00	19.00	18.62	19.00	18.50	112.14

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 3 Tim Daggett UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 4 James Harburg Nebraska

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 5 Scott Jamieson Nebraska

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 6 Kent Conner Unattach

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 7 James Mikal Nebraska

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 8 Chris Hage Nebraska

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 9 Dan Haydon Tucson

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 10 Brad Meador Nebraska

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 11 B Babcock So Il

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 12 Mark Davis UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 13 Phil Carney Nebraska

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 14 Billy Paul UC Berk

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 15 Matt Arnold Kent Miss

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00

## 16 Jan Davis Tucson

	FLOOR	HORSE	BARS	Vault	PEARS	H-BAR	A.A.
COMP	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	58.50
DFT	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	54.00
TOTAL	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.50	112.00

30% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.00) • 70% TRIALS (117.00) = 117.00



Tim Daggett gets great height during his high bar routine. Daggett completed the UCLA sweep of the top three spots by taking second place behind Chris Hage.

**Men's results continued on page 22**

*Note to the performing press: In order for a particular athlete to reach status of a men's national athlete, his Olympic Trials score must be adjusted and entered into the men's national gymnast.*



*Dan Hartweg (left) is upside during his stunts on pommel horse. Upper right: Nick Gaylord poses for the camera on rings and below: John Kobs achieves goals about his dismount from horses. (TAP photo © 1981 Dave Black)*

# DEPTH, EXPERIENCE, CONFIDENCE SPURS MEN

By Mike Rodkin  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**T**he feeling among the men's gymnastics team is one of great pride because this is the year they are going to make history. Not since the Olympics were held in Los Angeles in 1932 has a medal been won for the United States in gymnastics.

"We are going to be a part of history," said Peter Vidmar emphatically. "It is no longer a case of whether we will win a medal, but what color we are going to win."

Vidmar enters the Olympic Games fresh off his victory at the Trials, a hard earned win. "Winning the Olympic Trials was a big boost to my confidence. Not having competed in the NCAA Championships seemed to affect my performance in the Championships of the USA. The NCAA is such a high pressure event that I use that experience as fuel for the big national and international meets. I was more nervous than usual at the Championships but I settled down during the Trials and everything feels good now."

There is always that feeling of great apprehension before a big meet, but according to Vidmar, most of the pressure was lifted after making the Olympic team. "Now I'm excited 40 complete minutes of worried."

Looking to the long range effects that the



*1984 Olympian  
Mitch Gaylord  
1984 Champion of the USA*

Olympics will have in the United States, Vidmar feels these Games will have a great effect on the youth of America. "It will be very good for the kids to have an idol instead of one. The exposure we get will help to bolster our youth programs which will be good for gymnastics."

Burt Conner can be considered a real veteran of the Olympic Games since he has one actual Olympics under his belt and another that slipped through his fingers in 1980. "This will be the most exciting of the three I almost competed in," said Conner. "With the competition being in the United States, it will be much more exciting."

Conner, among others, feels with the home venue, the US gymnasts will have a distinct advantage over its visitors. "There will be a lot of exposure through the media, but another important factor for me is that I won't have to travel. I will be used to the equipment, the food and the customs and that puts my mind more at ease."

The veteran gymnast plans to continue with his gymnastics career after the Olympics for at least one more year which is good news to all those involved in the sport. Scott Johnson will be competing in his

last Olympics, but notes this has always been his goal. "This is something I set my sights on when I was younger, it was my ultimate goal in gymnastics. The more you dream and the more you improve, the more realistic the dream becomes. In 1980 when I made the national team, the dream became very realistic."

Tim Daggett echoes Johnson's thoughts. In the beginning, Daggett got involved in gymnastics just for the recreation. Then when he was in the 10th grade, he attended a National Boy's Institution in Pennsylvania



*1984 Olympian  
Tim Daggett*

and that competition was the catalyst that spurred him on. "I saw how much better those other gymnasts were than me," said Daggett who went on to star at UCLA with fellow Olympians Vidmar and Mitch Gaylord. "That is when I turned serious about the sport and made the Olympics my goal."

Behind the Chinese and Japanese, the Americans seem to have third placed locked in. "I don't see anybody that can trump us out of our third spot," said Johnson.

There is a very close feeling between all of the Olympic gymnastics competitors. "This same team has been together since 1981,"



*1984 Olympian Peter Vidmar*



*1980-1984 Olympian  
Jim Hartung*

said Nehenka graduate Jim Hartung, "I am very team oriented. I guess I was just brought up that way. We are looking to perform to our utmost potential and if we do we will have an outside chance at a gold medal. That is if we get a lot of luck."

All of the athletes are looking to "team out" on all 12 routines to help the team effort. But looking to the individual medals, some will have a chance at those. Vladimir has a good attitude about medals. "We are all trying to put out our best routines and whatever the outcome is fine. It would be nice to win a medal or to do 24 routines, but I can't hope for anything more."

Hartung is looking to two events, the floor exercise and the rings, in which he feels his experience will shine through. "Maybe I have an outside chance at a medal on floor. Rings is my favorite and I'm really getting excited about that competition. I feel I can do very well in that event." Duggan, on the other hand, is looking forward to the pommel horse. "I really do enjoy the horse. For what the judges and the people want to see, I want to have it right now."

In every winning situation there are those who are in the background cheering the first team players on. The 1984 Men's Olympic Gymnastics team is not without these support players. Brian Morker came off the best companion of his life in the Transland was asked to participate in the Olympic Training Camp, something that came as somewhat of a surprise to him. "It's really an honor to be involved with the Olympic team and I feel my main goal is to help motivate the others. It's a little different situation being an alternate, a little harder, but it's still an honor," said Morker.

Dan Haydon sees his role as one of a pastor. "I have to be in the best shape of my life to help these guys keep going hard. We



*1984 Olympian  
Scott Johnson*

don't have as much pressure on us as the others, so we are able to push them. The team is really psyched up to win a medal and we are all working perfectly in our routines in optional and compulsory."

Jim Mikus is the athlete who is directly on the razor's edge because he is the first alternate and if there should be an unfortunate occurrence, he would move up



*1984 Olympic Team  
Alternate Jim Mikus*



*1976-1980-1984 Olympian  
Bart Conner*

one spot and into the Olympics. "I am treating this as the most important meet of my life and I don't think I will have any problems staying both mentally and physically ready. If I did get to compete, I don't think I would have much of a chance to win an individual medal but I would try to help the team win one."



*Chris Riegel*

*USA Gymnastics*



(from page 16)

the gold medal favorite. The meet between the USA and Japan should be a classic! The Japanese have a computerized led by a superb technician—Kop Gashikan, but do they have team depth to match the U.S. men? This U.S. Men's Team has adventure on among one through six! Consistency? Consistency? Ah yes, THECA... it should be an absolutely marvelous meet!

In conclusion, the preview could not be complete without mentioning Corner. This is, after all, Corner's last U.S. Olympic Team and perhaps his international meet—a home meet. For a

decade, Corner has helped to lead the USA Men's Team into the inner circle of the international elite. He has won just about everything he could set his goals on—from the Illinois High School State Meet to the NCAA—the Championships of the USA, the American Cup, and gold medals at the World Cup and World Championships, and a bronze team medal at the 1979 World Championships. He has fought through injuries and fought back after injuries. An Olympic medal is all he needs to complete his career, and he should win along with all members of the U.S. Men's and Women's 1984 Olympic Team.

# WOMEN'S 1984 USGF GYMNASIUM OLYMPIC TRIALS

Jacksonville, FL, 04-05-1984

## INDIVIDUAL SCORES (Preliminary) COMP 50% DFT 40%

		NAULT	BEARS	BEAN FLOPS	A.A.	
1 M.L. Wilson						
	COMP	8.75	9.00	9.50	9.75	36.00
	DFT	8.50	8.75	9.00	9.50	35.75
	TOTAL	17.25	17.75	18.50	19.25	71.25
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.250) = 71.125					
2 J. McPherson						
	COMP	8.50	8.25	8.50	8.50	33.75
	DFT	8.25	8.00	8.50	9.00	33.75
	TOTAL	16.75	16.25	17.00	17.50	67.50
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					
3 M. Gussner						
	COMP	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.00	35.00
	DFT	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.00	35.00
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	70.00
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					
4 Pam Black						
	COMP	8.40	8.40	8.50	8.50	33.80
	DFT	8.20	8.40	8.50	8.75	33.85
	TOTAL	16.60	16.80	17.00	17.25	67.65
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					
5 L. Winer						
	COMP	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.00	35.00
	DFT	8.25	8.50	8.50	8.50	33.75
	TOTAL	16.75	17.00	17.50	17.50	69.25
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					
6 T. Tatro						
	COMP	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.75	34.25
	DFT	8.25	8.50	8.50	8.50	33.75
	TOTAL	16.75	17.00	17.00	17.25	68.00
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					
7 M. Rothman						
	COMP	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.00	35.00
	DFT	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.00	35.00
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	70.00
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					
8 K. Johnson						
	COMP	8.75	9.00	9.50	9.50	36.75
	DFT	8.50	8.75	9.00	9.50	35.75
	TOTAL	17.25	17.75	18.50	19.00	72.50
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000					

## Men's results (from page 17)

		COMP	DFT	TOTAL	
17 B. Campbell					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
18 Tom Smith					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
19 Charles Linder					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
20 Jay Ray					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
21 M. McCutcheon					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
22 Roy Peterson					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				

		COMP	DFT	TOTAL	
9 Y. Meyer					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
10 T. Butler					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
11 K. Garrison					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
12 Y. Mealy					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
13 T. Smith					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
14 H. Carter					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
15 G. Wilson					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
16 T. Smith					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
17 K. Hamilton					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
18 G. Hise					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
19 J. Smith					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
20 L. McVey					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
21 K. Haynes					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
22 M. Goodwin					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
23 G. Graham					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				
24 K. Hines					
	COMP	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	DFT	8.50	8.50	17.00	
	TOTAL	17.00	17.00	34.00	
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (71.000) + 60% TRIALS (71.000) = 71.000				



*Johnny "No Nonsense" shows a dismount during his extraordinary first meeting with the crowd in flying through the air on four wheels and two feet. Peter Dinklage is the referee in the photo above his first encounter with the "No Nonsense" (The New York Times)*





## 1984 USA Women

*Kathy Johnson*

*Marie Roethlisberger*

*Tracee Takavara*

*Lucy Wimer*





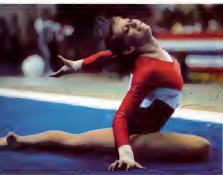
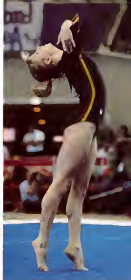
## 's Olympic Team

*Tom Bileck*

*Michelle Dosserra*

*Julianne McNamara*

*Mary Lou Ratten*



At the 1984 Olympic Games, USA Gymnastics placed first, fourth, fifth, and sixth in the team final. The team's success was due to the fact that they were the only team to place in the top six in all four events. The team's success was due to the fact that they were the only team to place in the top six in all four events.

# Static Energy Runs Through Women's Team

By Mike Rothman  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**I**t seems too good to be true for the fortunes of the United States gymnasts in Los Angeles. For the girls on the Olympic team there is great anticipation that their efforts will bring home a medal.

The mainstay of the American squad is West Virginia native Mary Lou Retton. How well the team does will depend on how well Retton does, and from the sounds of it, she is approaching the start with a "take no prisoners" attitude.

"I am taking the Olympics as I would any other big international meet. We (Retton and her coach Bela Karolyi) take meets very seriously and this one is no different."

Retton has developed into one of the clean-cut stars for the American squad. In the past year she has taken the



*Mary Lou Retton vaulted a first place finish in the 1984 Olympic Vault final in Jackson, the 1983 NCAA champion (left) here (right).*

American Cup title, Championship of the USA title and placed first in the Trials, and thus all coming back from an injury that kept her from competing in the World Championships. She has the possibility to garner more than one medal and with her outstanding will to win, will give it her best shot. "I am probably favored in the vault and the floor exercise," said Retton.

Her domination of the women's side of the sport was carefully orchestrated by her coach, the man who did the same thing for Nadia Comaneci in the Montreal Olympics. Retton has all the confidence in the world in Karolyi and says, "I'm sure he will peak out in the right time."

Another medal hopeful is Julianne McNamara who was also a member of the phantom 1980 Olympic squad. Being a member of that team and not getting to compete was all the inspiration she needed to go for it in 1984. "The fact that we didn't get to compete in 1980 helped inspire me to carry on for another four years. Now I'm in the best shape of my career and I want to go out and have the best meet of my career."

McNamara knows what it is like to have the Olympics taken away from her, but that is a fact of life that every

athlete must deal with. "It is unfortunate for the Russian athletes that they are not going to compete, but that's the way it goes. There are no guarantees. I feel the competition will be very close with or without them," said McNamara.

There are visions of medals dancing through McNamara's head and she feels she has more than a solid chance at one of them. "I have a really good chance in bars. Participating in the Olympics has been a life-long dream. After 1980 I managed to stay in either second or third place so I was in good position. Now that I am going to realize that dream it is very special to me."

The oldest member of the women's Olympic squad is Kathy Johnson who sat on a pommel during the training camp. This is her second try at competing in the Games, her first obliterated by the 1980 boycott.

The biggest difference between this team and the one in 1980 is that for the first time we have a legitimate shot at the gold medal. In 1980 we just had the opportunity to compete against the world's best. Now we will be there for sure," said Johnson.

Now the boycott is on the other foot and the Russian block runners will not be participating in the Games.



*Julianne McNamara shows no fear, vaults in a vault attempt for America's gymnasts on the floor (right) for Mary Lou Retton.*



*Michelle Gosselin jumps 40 feet over the vault with a good start and a third place finish.*



Kim Zmeskal, of K&D, comes fourth placing her place on the Olympic squad (NKG) places 4 (Sam Smith).



Lucy Weber shows some consistent performance during the Trials. For her consistency she places fifth.



Tanya Timareva, with her 10th place finish, must be met for her second Olympic team.

be attending and for some of our gymnasts this brings mixed reactions. "I have gone through different stages," said Johnson. "There was a time when it bothered me, but now it doesn't matter if the Russians will be there. We will have a chance to win a medal."

Trease Talavera was another off the 1980 squad that didn't get the opportunity to compete. "I feel this team has more depth than the other one. In 1980 we never had a training camp."

There was a while when it looked as though Talavera was going to drop out from the world's elite gymnasts, but as of late she has made "somewhat of a

comeback." She has done what every other athlete wants to do, and that is to improve. "I have improved a lot in the last couple of years and I am planning on getting better."

Another gymnast that came on at the end was Michelle Drossner. She surprised everyone, including herself by taking third in the Olympic Trials and securing her a spot in history. "I am really excited about the Olympics now but after the Trials I didn't expect to finish that high. I had a good meet on beam and during floor exercise."

Pam Blalock took fourth place, but she attributed her great finish to her placement after the Championships of the USA in Chicago recently. "I was in a very good position after the Championships. I am always trying to improve and am trying to perfect my routines. I should get better as practice goes on," said the Santa Clara, Ca native. Blalock is looking forward to the Olympics and thinks the home court advantage will be very good for the team. "It will be a definite advantage for us. I have competed in Peoria Pavilion before during the USA/USSR meet so it isn't a strange place."

But all during the training camp and on into the Olympic Games there will be a high voltage of spirit that runs through the girls. "I am very excited that I made the team," said a giggling Lucy Weber. Marie Rothlisberger is another excited gymnast. "I think it will be a great honor to compete in the Olympic Games. If the team can stay healthy we have more than an outside chance at a medal."

There are always those that see in

the background, but never get the chance to compete. One such gymnast is Yumi Mosier. She has the fortune to finish ninth in the Trials and so was invited to participate in the training camp that was held before the Games. "I trained very hard and always hoped some would get hurt. It was a good experience for me and should help my teammates. It is very exciting being a part of the Olympics, even though I know I'm not going to be able to go." So with great hesitation Mosier will stay behind. What will she do? "I am going to watch the Olympics on television because I couldn't get a ticket. But I'll get to see a lot. I'm sure."



Wendie Rothlisberger (left) of USSR had a clutch performance during the Trials placing just ahead of twice medalist Kelly Johnson (right) a discouraged as they finish their trials on the pommel horse for the second



# Peters:

## More Than Just A Chance

By Mike Botkin  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**W**omen's Olympic Coach Don Peters likes the position his athletes are in for the Games. With all of the pressures that are put on gymnasts to win, he feels there will be much more on the other participating countries.

"We are considered the slight underdogs with the edge going to the Romanians. I like being in that position because the pressure will be on the Romanians to win and not on us," said Peters. "Our team has nothing to lose and everything to gain during the Olympic competition."

So heading into the 1984 Olympics with the strongest team the United States has ever mustered, Peters feels very confident his charges will be up for the task ahead of them but as their coach, he has definite plans to get them into the position to win.

"I see this competition as a three-way race with the Romanians, the Chinese and the U.S. For us to win we must be in either first place after the compulsory or within striking distance, less than one point down. If we perform very hard, I am confident we will do well."

In a gymnastics competition of this magnitude, new and changing rules seem to pop up unexpectedly, but in such a delicate Peters. "I think we in the gymnastics community have seen everything I don't expect anything different from the World Championships. The Olympics are a very important meet so you aren't going to take any chances."

Winning is going to involve a little luck and scores in the ranged the mid-ones. "We must score 9.5 or 9.6 to be in contention. I feel the scores will range from 9.6 to 9.9."

Preparing the gymnasts physically for the meet is a structured task and can be done with a strict schedule with special attention paid to the amount of work allowed each day. "I want to avoid burn out," said Peters. "If you work the athletes too hard they won't be as sharp."

Peters is stressing the mental aspect of the Games because he feels many obstacles can be overcome if the athlete is truly mentally prepared. "I believe the homework creates the results. What you do the day of the meet

won't make that much difference. The critical part of the competition comes weeks before. The last couple of weeks should be spent on mental preparation."

As an example, Peters pointed out the case of Marie Rostolskyer. In between the Championships of the USA and the Olympic Trials, she injured her elbow and couldn't train the week before the Trials. "She was prepared both physically and mentally and went out and hit her routine because she knew she could hit them."

Another aspect Peters is stressing in the Olympic team is the team spirit. "The Olympics is a team competition. This is many times lost with all of the individual medal winners. But it was because of the teammates that the medal was possible. You can't do it alone. The kids who win the medals will share them with the one of the team. The kids are all behind each other.

even the four who aren't going to compete."

Exposure and opportunity are two words

that dominate the conversation of the women's Olympic coach. "The Olympics represents a turning point in our sport. It is a chance to popularize our sport in the USA. We are going to have prime time coverage and we will have more people watching than ever before. The other television stations might as well shut down for a week. We have the opportunity to become household names. I believe financially it will have a great impact also," said Peters.

In addition to a great opportunity for the sport, Peters feels the job of coaching the female Olympic gymnasts is a "challenge and big responsibility. I feel the responsibility but I am not dreading it. I need to keep the team psychologically motivated and try to develop that present anticipation in them for the event. I feel it's going to be a lot of fun."



Don Peters likes the idea of winning the female gymnasts the US. This gives them the opportunity to have a complete rule set without it being a 1984 (Don Peters)

# Harrah's<sup>+</sup> Trump Plaza

**RSG  
History  
Boardwalk  
Atlantic**

Valerie Zisring

(USAP photo © 1984 Mike Dotkin)



(USGF photo © 1984 Dave Black)

Michelle Berube

By Mike Bodin  
USA Gymnastics Editor

# Made On Of City

**I**t was a moon filled with excitement and magic, where lady luck turned sour just as the big bets were placed. That was the scene at the 1984 Northern Gymnastics Olympics Trials (June 16-17) in Atlantic City where the boardwalk turned to yellow brick for Valerie Zisberg, Michelle Berube, and Lydia Beve as they began their trek to the Emerald City, Los Angeles, and to the Olympic Games.

For these rhythmic gymnasts and their coaches, it was a long awaited day. A day when their sport acquired its first Olympic squad. It was the realization of many dreams and the release of many pressures. "When I took my place on the podium after the event, I felt a great feeling of relief, like a large weight was taken off my shoulders," said the number one finisher Zisberg. "There was a lot of pressure on all of us from the very beginning," said Berube. "I'm glad it is over."

As it will be in a gambling town, there are always winners and those on the other side of Lady Luck. Martin Kargusky had been riding the crest of good fortune all week. First it was the decision at the 14th hour to grant her U.S. citizenship, thus allowing her to compete in the trials. Then it was her great performance throughout the competition which had her securely locked into third place going into the final routine. But just as she was about to take in her winnings, her hand was slapped and her bet stayed on the table and that led to disaster.

It was during that final ribbon routine when she had a mechanical failure which caused her ribbon to separate from its stem making it impossible for her to finish her routine. For her partial routine, she received the lowest score of her competitive career, a 7.04 opening the door for Beve to gain the third place spot on the podium.

"A sort of broke," said a disappointed Kargusky. "I have only seen this happen once before and that was in practice. I checked all my equipment before I went on and I saw

nothing wrong." When the ribbon separated, the crowd booed, the judges met and Knapovsky just stood there a million miles away, or so it looked. "I didn't know what to do. I thought it's a bit I couldn't so I just turned and walked off. It hurt. I had been training very hard for this competition. I was ready for it and I was having a very good meet," she concluded.

But with every tale of misadventure in sports there is always someone on the other side who benefits. That person was Bree. With the low score, Bree was able to take over the third spot, that of alternate on the Olympic squad.

Not to blow things out of proportion, but Bree's good fortune came about due to her consistent performance throughout the competition. Bree, who was leaving BSA after a disappointing Championships of the USA effort which gave her her lowest finish ever in that meet, came through with eight good solid routines, but it was her final routine, the ribbon, where she followed Knapovsky, that was probably her best of the competition. "I wanted an expression and never wanted to come through in this manner," said Bree. "I really wanted to go out and show everybody I deserved to be on the Olympic team."

And Bree was to the hilt and indeed in the most emotional routine of the entire competition and the judges awarded her with a 9.5. "I feel I deserve to be on the Olympic team and I think we have a better team with me on it," said Bree.

There were several other gymnasts who turned in very consistent routines during the two-day competition hosted by Harrell's at Trump Plaza. One such athlete was Kerrie.

She came into the competition the determined champion of the USA and had a fine burning desire to win this event. But this was not to be as Zarnoff kept pace with her and a last Kerrie had problems during her final club routine. (Continued on page 30)

Lydia Bree

**USA/USGF GYMNASTICS GYMNASTIC TRIALS**  
Atlanta City, GA 06-10-1984  
**INDIVIDUAL SCORES\*\***  
(TRIALS SCORE - AVERAGE OF SAT. & SUN. COMPETITIONS)

		HOOF	BALL	CLUBS/RIBBON	A.A.
1	Valerie Ziszig	SAT 9.40	9.45	9.50	9.50 38.90
	L.A. School	SUN 9.75	9.75	9.75	9.80 39.00
	TOTAL	19.15	19.20	19.25	19.30 78.900
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (37.600) - 60% TRIALS (26.400) - 38.000				
2	Michelle Berube	SAT 9.25	9.55	9.55	9.55 38.90
	Malvern Mills	SUN 9.25	9.75	9.55	9.55 39.10
	TOTAL	18.50	19.30	19.10	19.10 77.900
	60% CHAMPIONSHIPS (37.600) - 40% TRIALS (26.400) - 37.900				
3	Lydia Bree	SAT 9.45	9.55	9.50	9.50 37.90
	L.A. School	SUN 9.50	9.55	9.40	9.50 37.90
	TOTAL	18.95	19.10	18.90	19.00 77.950
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				
4	Lisa Anderson	SAT 9.35	9.25	9.30	9.35 37.90
	L.A. School	SUN 9.25	9.25	9.30	9.35 38.00
	TOTAL	18.60	18.50	18.60	18.70 77.200
4B	CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				
5	Maria Kuznetsov	SAT 9.40	9.40	9.30	9.30 38.00
	L.A. School	SUN 9.75	9.55	9.50	9.50 38.30
	TOTAL	19.15	18.95	18.80	19.80 77.900
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				
6	Stacy Overton	SAT 9.00	9.25	9.50	9.75 38.50
	L.A. School	SUN 9.50	9.40	9.55	9.85 39.00
	TOTAL	18.50	18.65	19.05	19.60 77.200
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				
7	Wendy Hillard	SAT 9.10	9.25	9.25	9.25 38.00
	Detroit Metro	SUN 9.20	9.25	9.25	9.25 38.00
	TOTAL	18.30	18.50	18.50	18.50 76.800
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				
8	Teresa Bruce	SAT 9.00	9.45	9.45	9.50 38.40
	IN NW Georgia	SUN 9.40	9.50	9.55	9.55 38.95
	TOTAL	18.40	18.95	19.00	19.05 77.350
	40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				
9	Elizabeth Call	SAT 9.00	9.10	9.35	9.10 38.50
	L.A. School	SUN 9.25	9.30	9.35	9.35 38.80
	TOTAL	18.25	18.40	18.70	18.45 77.400
	60% CHAMPIONSHIPS (38.000) - 60% TRIALS (27.000) - 38.000				



# Pioneer Spirit Lives In Zimring

By Mike Reinken  
USA Gymnastics Editor

In this day of high technology it is hard to find an area where there are any pioneers, but 1984 Rhythmic National Champion and USA Olympic team member Valerie Zimring feels she has found her spot. "It's not so much that you have helped start something and I think it's going to be big."

What the Los Angeles native is referring to is the fact she is on the first Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic team ever and is a member of that team, she is turning the sport into the 1984 Olympics. "It has been hard to be involved in an unknown sport. When I first became involved, no one accepted it. I was at events where people laughed at me because they thought I looked ridiculous."

Well, all that has changed now and as Zimring admits, "the sport has improved by leaps and bounds over the past couple of years." During the early days of rhythmic gymnastics, there were times when the only people watching the sport were the parents of the athletes and the judges. But with the widespread publicity the sport has been receiving of late, the crowds have improved and so has the nation's understanding. "It is easier to perform when there are people in the stands. No longer are you performing for just the judges. Now I go out and perform for my country for the crowd and I have found it much easier to get more involved and to emit more expression."

For the American team at this year's a big boost for the Games to be held in Los Angeles. "People used to say to me this it was a shame the Olympics weren't being held in some far away place. But I have been to all these far away places for other international competitions," Zimring admits. "Now I will be performing in front of all my friends because they have all gone out and bought tickets which makes it a lot easier for me. It takes some of the pressure off."

Zimring, who lives a stone's throw away from the UCLA campus site of the 1984 Olympic Games, competes like a girl for the home town crowd. "In big international competitions the away from home, I feel very intimidated. But by performing so close to home the pressure will be on the other international rhythmic gymnasts. The crowd will be behind the USA, and I feel this will give us a big advantage."

Every day friends, members of the press, and Zimring herself, ask herself the big question "What about a medal for the USA?" "I would love to get a medal and I don't think that is totally out of the question. I am going to try."

But she admits, the medal isn't the most prevalent aspect of the Olympics that is on



her mind. "I want to go out and have a good time, to do my best and to represent the country in the best possible manner. The scores are important, sure, but I have to feel good about myself. If I don't and I perform well then I will have succeeded in my goal."

So far in her illustrious career, rhythmic gymnastics has been the major part of her life. She has been involved in the sport for 7½ years and was an artistic gymnast before that. With the realization of her dream making the Olympic team, there are other aspects in the air now considering, "I want to go to college and will be attending UCLA in the fall. I know I would like to stay in this sport in some fashion, but I haven't decided if what way."

Zimring admits she always had the Olympic dream in her head, even from the beginning when rhythmic gymnastics wasn't an Olympic sport. But it took the experience of her coach Alla Karaty (the 1984 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic Coach) to give her the guidance she needed. One of my problems in the past few years was I didn't know what I wanted. I didn't know if my heart was in it or not. But Alla has showed me that I could attain my dream and pushed me to it."

There are several aspects of everything life as an athlete runs through in order to attain this particular event. One of those is a social life. "Many of my friends that were involved in gymnastics when I first started disappointed to have a social life. They were always asking me why I stayed in and didn't always understand when I told them why. Now I

Valerie Zimring (above) leads the ribbon in her final appearance in her life. She is hoping to earn a big score and a medal in her sport. (AP/Wide World photo © 1984 Dave Hickey)

think they understand and I feel they wish they had stuck with it. I don't think I have missed that much."

By sticking to her guns, Zimring has been able to stand for the stars. She has knocked up international travel and exposure in her gym belt something other kids her age haven't experienced. "It is a lot of ways I feel older than my friends. I understand more about life and what it takes to achieve goals. I don't know anyone who has dedicated themselves as much as a gymnast, and that is their teacher you a lot."

There are special feelings that are reserved just for those who make an Olympic team. The chance to represent your country to stand on the victor's stand and hear the National Anthem being played sends chills up and down the spines of fellow countrymen wherever they may be located. "My whole career has been an incredible experience. The best feeling is how really proud of myself I am. During the Olympics I am going to try and trust the competition itself as much as possible. As my other big event and not like the Olympics. I'm going to go out and do the best I can."

# Berube's Goals Set High

By Mike Rothkin  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**T**he greatest ideas can come from just goofing around and Michelle Berube can attest to that. The 1984 rhythmic gymnastics Olympic team member came up with a move for her ball routine one day while sitting on the floor with friend Amy Blair.

"I guess we should call it the Michelle and Amy move. We were just fooling around when I rolled the ball down my arm, delayed it on my back, then rolled it back down the same arm. I thought this was pretty neat and started practicing it and decided to incorporate it into my routine."

When Berube is performing, she has a certain talent to get close to the audience. She conveys this through her facial expressions and the use of her tricks in conjunction with the music she chooses. "It has always been my goal to perform and when I do I have to be very exact. I am such an emotional person I have to be totally into my routine. I like to make eye contact with people in the audience and see their reaction to my routine. I know I have had a good routine if I have gotten through to the crowd."



Berube, along with Valerie Zimring and Lydia Bece, have proved themselves to be the best rhythmic gymnasts in this country and that is one of Berube's goals for the Olympic Games. "My goal is to do the best of the United States. If I can finish ahead of Angela Weber of West Germany then I feel I will have accomplished something. She's known throughout the world for her name plus she has a very distinct style."

With the realization of making the Olympic team and to represent the United States in the Games, Berube feels she could get better but doesn't know if she will have the time to devote to reaching her full potential. "I've hit a peak and feel I could go further. It is a big question with me to leave while I'm on top and move on to new things or to continue for another four years. I want to stay around gymnastics, but at the same time I am looking around for opportunities."

Now that the pressure of making the team is over, Berube can relax and sit back and think about what she has done. "When we were on the podium after the Trials all the emotions and frustrations came pouring through and we knew we were on the team. I'm very happy I'm going to the Olympics. It is a great honor making the Olympic team."

## Olympics Realization Of Dream

By Mike Rothkin  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**R**hythmic gymnast Lydia Bece is on the list now. Although she is a member of the 1984 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic delegation, she placed third in the Olympic Trials and thus must play the part of alternate. But even this has not diminished her zeal for the sport in which she has spent the majority of her life.

"This is [making the Olympic team] such a realization of a dream. It's such a goal that you set for yourself that to realize it is such a rush of warmth." Nothing is ever definite until it is over."

Bece is the oldest member of the 1984 squad and thus carries with her the most experience. "The first time I ever saw rhythmic gymnastics was after the 1972 Olympics and the Russians were giving a group routine exhibition. I just thought they were a bunch of clever Russians who made up these routines in their back yard. I had no idea it was a sport."

*Bece's longevity in rhythmic has paid off with her third-place finish in the Trials (1982) place #1 (1981) and Bece.*

But when she was a sophomore in high school, this sport became as real as life to the California native. "I started taking artistic gymnastics classes and at one of them I saw Ali Solis working with some girls. When she moved her gym closer to me I started taking classes. I never dreamed I would get into this."

After one year in rhythmic gymnastics Bece made the World Championship team and traveled to Switzerland. It was here she got her first education on the sport. "I was amazed at the level of competition. I was just

working at the time, three times a week for three hours. I thought I would go to the World Championships and then go home and go to school. But Beverly told me it was more than fun and games, it was hard work, so I came home and started working six days a week for six hours a day."

As Ali Solis' Olympian Valerie Zimring, Bece has been instructed by 1984 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic Coach Ali Solis. According to Bece, she has been the guiding light behind her. "I think Ali is one of the finest coaches in the world. She has made me what I am today. She can take a person and realize their potential, the mark of a truly great coach. She can take that talent and bring out the good positive qualities."

Because of her longevity in rhythmic gymnastics, Bece has been around long enough to see many changes come about in the sport. "Young girls now, their basic elements were my superior elements when I started. One of the biggest advantages I can see now for the girls coming up in the sport is they have older girls to look up to. This is something I didn't have. There is a good system where they can come up through the ranks. When I started, I had no idea of what the sport was all about, but look at me now."



USA Gymnastics

# Svirsky's Expertise Improving Sport

By Mike Rodden  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**F**ormed on the mind of 1984 Rhythmic Olympic Coach Alla Svirsky is the advancement of the sport she has come to call her own. When she first arrived in the United States from her native country of the Soviet Union, Svirsky was known throughout the gymnastics world as a great choreographer for both artistic and rhythmic gymnastics.

Sitting in her office at her own club, the Los Angeles School of Gymnastics, Svirsky is quite pleased with the advancements her sport has made throughout the years. "The development of the sport has come so far. It is nice to see there are big companies out there who are willing to give their support. They are starting to recognize the beauty and potential of the sport."

Getting to the gymnasts of the program, Svirsky feels the Americans have a distinct advantage in rhythmic gymnastics over the Europeans. "In this country, the athlete has so want to become a rhythmic gymnast. There are so many other options open to them that this creates very positive desire within them. This is something that cannot be taught. You have to want to perform. We have a natural selection of our gymnasts because they are free to do what they please. In other countries, they cannot do this. It is very structured."

When talking to the rhythmic gymnasts themselves, they respect the work that Svirsky has done. But one of the major drawbacks to the American system is the lack of competitions they are able to attend. In Europe, rhythmic gymnasts have the opportunity to compete against other countries because of the close locale. It takes an incredible amount of money to either send, or stage, an international competition because of the distance involved. But according to the Olympic coach, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. "In this country we have an advantage because of the amount of money we have available for us to listen to. We can use this in our routines. Everybody copies us. Right now, the Bulgarians (who will not be competing in the 1984 Games due to the boycott) are using our music in their routines."

But with the advancement of any sport comes the pains of growth. More advanced facilities are needed by the



rhythmic gymnasts in order to keep up and surpass the world's best. "We are still behind in the conditioning of athletes and we are overgrowing our facilities. We will have an excellent training facility (for the Olympics) due to the great support we are getting from the United States Gymnastics Federation and the United States Olympic Committee."

A coach's work is never done and Svirsky is a living testimony to this well-proven adage. "You cannot be one second behind or you will blow it," she said. "We have to be very strong in technique and details, both technical and mechanical. I have to study every minute. It is the only way to advance."

Far more important than the actual routines, the rhythmic gymnasts perform, Svirsky feels, is the preparation of the mind comes first. After all, if they cannot handle the pressure, then even the

greatest routine in the world won't help. "It takes a lot of dedication to prepare the minds of the young gymnasts. It's all blood and sweat. I feel the gymnasts should be taught by their coaches and not by themselves. They may be strong individuals, but they cannot be counted on to teach themselves how to react under pressure. They have to work with the coaches. You have to show to yourself that you are very confident."

Looking towards the Olympic competition itself, Svirsky has very definite ideas on what it is going to take to bring home a medal. "I feel there will be six countries competing for a medal (See A111, page 36).



*Svirsky feels the most study, all the time is order to keep up with the rapidly changing sport. (Left photo: © 1984 Dave Black)*

told her the opportunity to claim the top spot.  
"I had a lot of time between my hoop and ball routines," said Bernabe. "Before I went on for my clubs routine, I felt confident and secure and very relaxed." But her relaxed composure wasn't allowed for very long because she dropped a club very early in the routine. There came another drop, and Bernabe's usual smiling face became as sober as a judge's. "When the first drop came I felt nervous. Then I was petrified after the second. After it was all over, I was really depressed and I said I had another routine to go."

For her routine the Detroit Metro's star received a gift score of 9.05 which dropped her into second for the remainder of the competition.

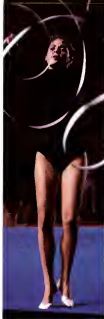
Zimmer's second day of competition was just the opposite. "The first day I was very nervous and I guess I let the pressure get to me too much. I knew I had to do well and was pushing myself pretty hard. I didn't do a bad job but I just didn't have the right attitude." So later that night came the moment of truth and after a small self-congratulation she came out the second day a new gymnast. "I just knew the second day was going to be harder and that I couldn't let the pressure get to me. I had a great day and felt I did well in all four events."

Wendy Hilliard was another gymnast who seemed in a very consistent performance. She had one slight hiccup at the end of her ball routine the second day which turned out to be her only mistake in all eight routines. "I am very proud I got the chance to compete in this historic event," said Hilliard. "I feel very good about my performance." For the Detroit gymnast it is on to bigger and better things but with a promise to "stick around for awhile longer in the sport."

#### Sunday's Competition

**T**he field was narrowed to the top four competitors by the time this day was over. Kuryevsky started the competition off with a bang as she turned in a good wrong hoop routine which included a move called the Shagunova element which is where she kicks the hoop with the calf of her leg then catches it. She had the misfortune of being the first competitor of the meet and scored a 9.08 for her routine.

Zimmer came right out and nervousness (or not) set the standards for the rest to watch as she turned in a very expressive hoop routine good for a 9.4. Teresa Bruch showed some flexibility that was not evident in



*Like champion, placed fourth during the Rhythmic Olympic Meet in Atlanta, GA. The meet was hosted by Georgia At Group Photo and was in conjunction with their college's grand opening. (GSCA photo © 1994 Dave Black)*

(ALLA, from page 25)

(Romania, West Germany, Spain, Canada, Japan, Italy and China could bring surprises) along with the United States. If the Bulgarians were in the Olympics, we might see some perfect 10.00's. But I feel a 9.7 or 9.8 will be the champion. If we can get a 9.6, we may get a medal."

Vinsky switched from the ranks of the artistic gymnast to that of a rhythmic gymnast because she felt she could use her

baller background in a better way. Although she still choreographs floor exercise routines for artistic gymnasts, Vinsky likes to do routines for her rhythmic girls. "It is such a beautiful sport. The body preparation is much like that in ballet. It is an easy sport for young people to get involved in. In grade school you can give 100 kids a ribbon and you have the makings of a very beautiful group routine."

To come to this country and have her work rewarded by being named as the Olympic coach, the first ever in the history of

the United States, Vinsky feels quite honored. "I feel great. I am very excited about the Olympics and the exposure our sport is going to get. We have great athletes and we should do very well. We have advanced very quickly over the past few years. We have gone from scoring 8.6 or 8.7 in international competitions to scoring 9.4 and 9.5s. I feel we have done a phenomenal job in advancing without the help of Big money. We should get that help from the boom which will take place after the Olympic Games."

The highest marks of the day were taken by Bernabe who made up the ground lost from the Championships by gathering two 9.6's. The first came in her ball routine and the second in her ribbon routine. "It is now ribbon routine and I like it very much. I am happy to be on the floor with it," she said.

There was just .005 separating Zimmer and Bernabe. Zimmer had an equally good day scoring two 9.6's to keep pace. The first came for her clubs routine and the second during her dynamic ribbon routine. After the first day, the scoreboard read: Bernabe (.26-110), Zimmer (.26-125), Kuryevsky (.26-120), Bruch (.25-999), Lisa Antonson (.24-953), Stacy Overton (.24-110), Hilliard (.24-893), Elizabeth Call (.24-880), and Bruch (.24-765).

#### Sunday's Competition

**I**n addition to a being the finale of the Rhythmic Olympic Trials it was also a birthday celebration for Antonson who just happened to be on off the day's schedule. She began well, but had the hoop stick a couple of times and was rewarded with a 9.35.

The story of this good day was that of three. She picked right up where she left off from the day before and began with a 9.55 for her hoop routine. Following her was Bernabe who nailed her routine and scored a 9.75, the highest score so far in the competition. But not long after her came another stunning routine, this time turned in by Zimmer who also scored a 9.75.

During the ball competition it was again Zimmer and Bernabe who took top honors, each scoring 9.75's. Miss Finckelberry, Overton, improved her standing with a beautiful routine for which she received a 9.4 score.

Zimmer used the overall low scores of the clubs portion of the meet to take solid command. After witnessing Bernabe's 9.05 routine, Zimmer, with all the style and poise of a true champion came through with a breathtaking routine a 9.75 score and the lead for good. A drop near the end of her routine spoiled an otherwise very solid routine for Bruch as she scored a 9.25.

Then came the fatal ribbon routine. For Kuryevsky it was a disaster, for three an answer to her prayers, for Bernabe, a time to get her act together and for Zimmer one last routine before victory.

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# RSG Boom Finds Vogelhaar In Middle

By Mike Bookin  
USA Gymnastics Editor

**W**ith the popularity of rhythmic gymnastics gaining by leaps and bounds every day, the United States Gymnastics Federation has gotten into the music business and pianist Jacques Vogelhaar is the person this interest is centered around.

Going by the nickname Jackie, the European born pianist has been on the payroll of Olympic Coach Alla Seleznev, at her school the Los Angeles School of Gymnastics, playing music and arranging songs to the routines of its members for awhile now. But it wasn't until just recently that he received the top official rhythmic gymnastics pianist for the United States in the 1984 Olympics.

Vogelhaar's involvement stretches back to his days in Holland where he began his musical career by studying at the Hague. "I was 16 years old when I was asked to play for a rhythmic gymnastics club. Then about 13 years ago, in the early 1970's, I was asked to

play for the Holland national rhythmic team. I didn't like the sport that well at first, but since then it has become a part of my life."

Upon his arrival in the United States, Vogelhaar hooked up with an old acquaintance, Alla Seleznev, and the directed

him to the key people in rhythmic gymnastics. "I knew Alla already from international meets I had played at. I was very happy to play for her because I feel she is the top coach in the country."

In Europe it is almost standard procedure for the gymnasts to work with a live pianist rather than taped music. Seleznev saw the need for this in her gym and so hired the services of Vogelhaar. "She thought it would be more professional to practice with a live piano player."

Since his birth into the sport of rhythmic gymnastics in Europe, Vogelhaar has seen many changes come about very quickly. "The level of competition has changed so much. A girl that finished 10th in junior competition now could have been a world champion 12 or 14 years ago."

Vogelhaar terms himself as "unreplaceable support" for the athletes he plays for. "I am someone who is in the background helping. I am an essential part of the gymnast. I can cost them points or I can gain them points. I am all the time working with them."



But for the piano, gymnast and coach to all work together and understand each other takes a while, according to Vogelhaar. The main feeling between the pianist and gymnast must be trust. "It is a triangle. I must get to know the gymnast and her routine and she must get to know me and that takes a couple of months. Every girl has different things she will do. I have to watch her arm on a som because that is when I accident, I have to know the routines inside and out and be able to keep up with all the changes."

Once that trust is established and the gymnast knows Vogelhaar will be there to either cover up a mistake or help speed a routine up, then they will be able to fully concentrate on their routines. "I concentrate more on them than they do on me. They have problems enough with their equipment and have to concentrate on that all the time they are on the floor."

But at the same time, the piano player misses some of the routine because he has to watch what he is doing. "They prefer it when I sit on the right knee," laughs Vogelhaar. "If I play 10,000 wrong notes the gymnast will get confused and it will upset her routine. It is always a surprise for me to see the continuous video tape because I see things that I have missed. When you have to check two things, you miss something."

So it will be on to the Olympics for Vogelhaar and the rhythmic gymnasts and the pianist is very excited about his involvement in this large international event. "I am very happy they have a place for a piano player. I feel this will be very good for the girls. They will get to show their routines 100 percent perfect."

Vogelhaar has played for each girl on the Olympic squad before and feels it is very important that he accompanies them on international trips as well. "It is very important for me to know exactly what they are doing and are going to do. In the case of international meets where there is great pressure, I like to know how they are going to react."

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Since rhythmic gymnastics has become such an important part of his life, Vogtman feels it will be very hard to get out of the sport. But there is always the threat of rhythmic orchestrating its music or the concept of relating to music on to something else. "I am so much into the sport that it will be very hard for me to get out of it. You are how hard it is for the athletes and it will be the same for me."

*Jacques Vogtman, Juror (1971) plays a Kyndell Co. limited piano with electronic games. Wang Hsiao-hui looking on. Above: Juror plays for a competitor during the Rhythmic Olympic Trials at Atlantic City, NJ.*



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# CALENDAR

## UNITED STATES GYMNASIICS FEDERATION Schedule of Events (Dates & Events subject to change or cancellation)

### AUGUST 1984

9-11  
Olympic Gymnastics Camp/Elite  
Modesto, Gymnasium  
Pacifi Center  
UCLA Campus

15-20

RSC Continental Judges Course Colorado  
Springs, RSC National Coaches Course  
Colorado Springs, CO

18-20

Junior Men's Development Camp  
Colorado Springs, CO

### SEPTEMBER 1984

18-19

1984 Business Seminar  
Indianapolis, IN

20-24

1984 Congress  
Indianapolis, IN

15-24

Olympic Modesto Tour

### OCTOBER 1984

1-20

RSC Training Camp  
Colorado Springs, CO

25-26

Four Continents Championships in  
Burlington, Gymnasium  
Indianapolis, IN

26-28

National Coaches Workshop (M)  
Colorado Springs, CO

### NOVEMBER 1984

6-8

USA Ontario Cup (M/W)  
Victoria, Canada

7-10

Pacific Alliance  
San Francisco

17

8th Washington Cup  
(Junior Boys & Girls)  
Rapid City, SD

17-20

1st Junior Men's Dev. Camp  
Colorado Springs, CO

24-26

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1-4

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Registration 8:30 am  
Seminar 9:00 am-5:30 pm  
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Seminar 7:30 pm-10:00 pm

#### September 20, 1984

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Registration 1:00 pm-6:00 pm  
General Assembly 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

#### September 21, 1984

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Tour of Champions 7:30 pm

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Registration 9:00 am-6:00 pm  
Reception 7:00 pm  
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(317) 636-8743

# VIDAL SASSOON

**G**ymnastics in America is taking on a different look thanks to the combined efforts of the United States Gymnastics Federation and Vidal Sassoon who have been grooming the heads of men's and women's artistic gymnasts and rhythmic gymnasts.

Breeding into make shift salons before competition, the imported hair artists have been responsible for a renewed feeling of self confidence in the athletes. "They treat our athletes first class and make each one feel very special," said Rich Kennedy the USGF's Director of Marketing and Sponsorships.

Always the center of attention at an event they attend, the groups of Vidal Sassoon have become more than hair stylists; they have become friends. Going into the salon always a fun experience and a highlight of the trip.

With scissors snipping, hair driers drying and rinses, following from a portable stereo, athletes and stylists share experiences and laugh together. Then when the cut is complete and the new athlete emerges, they are taken to the photo studio where they are

made into a model for a day. As can be witnessed by the before and after pictures all of the natural beauty of the athlete is brought out by the Sassoon professionals.

"The better you feel about yourself, the better you are able to perform," stated Kennedy. "We have the best looking athletes in the world."

Looking to the wider world, Vidal Sassoon, the official hair care consultant to the USGF has also become the official hair care consultant to the 1984 Olympic Games.



**MITCH GAYLORD**  
Before After



**MARY LOU RETTON**



**PETER VIDMAR**  
Before After



PHOTO: Grant Sainsbury

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# USGF "Team" Of Sponsors, Suppliers and Supporting Companies

The USGF is very fortunate and privileged to have relationships with the following companies in support of the sport of gymnastics in the United States and our National Teams. The following companies give direct financial payments that supplies almost 25 percent of the Federation's operating capital, in addition to the official services and products supplied to the USGF. The "behind the line" did support by these companies in

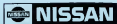
the form of promotional support, products and services of and for the USGF goes far beyond their direct financial support. The benefit of these relationships also go beyond those of the National Team and are designed and created to support the gymnastics community as a whole. We do hope the gymnastics community, when they have the opportunity, will support these companies as they are a very active part of our gymnast's identity.



**McDonald's Corporation —**  
"official National Corporation Sponsor"



**Asics/Tiger Corporation —**  
"official competitive apparel supplier to the Men's and Women's Artistic and Rhythmic National Gymnastics Teams"



**Nissan/Datsun —**  
"official car and truck of the USGF"



**Tomboy/Domino of California —**  
"USGF official travel and leisure apparel supplier"



**Official Film of  
the Los Angeles  
1984 Olympics**



**Fuji/USA —**

"official supplier of photographic and video products to the USGF. Also an official sponsor of USA Gymnastics magazine."



**Vidal Sassoon —**

"official hair care consultant to the United States Gymnastics Federation"



**FUGAZY  
INTERNATIONAL  
TRAVEL**

**Fugazy International —**  
"official travel agency of the USGF"



**WASHINGTON  
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**Washington Street Publishers**  
"official USGF poster publishers"

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**Johnston's Yogurt —**

"official Yogurt of the United States Rhythmic Gymnastics Team"



**kimball**

**KEYBOARDS** "official piano of the USGF"



## **Tiger goes head over heels for the gold.**

On the beam or on the bar, on the floor or in the air, Tiger is proud to perform with the U.S. Gymnastics Team.

AJCO's Tiger is the official supplier to the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team. Shown May Lou Brown. AJCO's Tiger Corporation, 3535 South Bascom Avenue, Suite 400, San Jose, CA 95128.



# ONCE A KID DEFINES GRAVITY, THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.

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McDonald's believes in the power of that tiny voice. That's why we sponsor gymnastics for kids of all ages,

from local meets all the way to the Olympics. From Head Over Heels Gymnastics programs that get kids started to the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team that lets them shine.

McDonald's wants more kids to believe they can do it. To believe in themselves. Because once they do, there's no telling how far they'll go. There'll be no stopping them.



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NOT JUST BETTER ATHLETES, BETTER KIDS.™

